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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND
PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION
OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND
DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 29 March 1995 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and to the President of the Security Council

In my report of 1 March 1995 to the General Assembly and the Security Council on the peace negotiations between the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) (A/48/857-S/1995/168), I referred to the negotiations on the identity and rights of indigenous people, to which much effort was devoted between 20 October and 20 December 1994, and expressed the hope that the parties would spare no effort to finalize that important agreement at the earliest possible date.

Work on this issue resumed on 2 March 1995. It concluded on 24 March 1995 in Mexico City with the finalization of the text of an agreement on identity and rights of indigenous people, which is to be signed by the parties on 31 March 1995 in Mexico City.

This is an encouraging development, which should help the peace negotiations to regain the necessary momentum towards an agreement on a firm and lasting peace. It comes as the General Assembly considers the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA).

In this respect, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that, in the final text of the agreement on identity and rights of indigenous people, the parties concur that, while the agreement as a whole will enter into force at the

signing of a final peace agreement, those aspects which relate to human rights recognized in the Guatemalan legal order, including international treaties, conventions and other instruments to which Guatemala is a party, should be implemented immediately. The parties request that implementation of these aspects of the agreement be verified by MINUGUA.

Immediately after the signing of the agreement, I shall convey its text to you and assess the implications of the request for immediate verification, on which I shall convey my recommendations to the General Assembly.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI